

**CLAIMS**

1. A pneumatic tire, comprising:

5        circumferential grooves disposed along a circumferential  
direction of a tread; and

land portions divided by the circumferential grooves,  
wherein positions of groove deepest portions in the  
10        circumferential grooves vary in a predetermined cycle along  
the circumferential direction in a width direction of the  
tread within the circumferential grooves; and

depth direction positions, where a groove bottom surface of  
15        the circumferential groove contacts with each of  
perpendicular lines which are perpendicular or  
approximately perpendicular to a tread surface and which  
pass respectively through edges of the land portions on a  
side of each of the circumferential grooves, as well as  
20        angles, which are formed by the perpendicular lines and a  
section line of a cross-section of the groove bottom surface  
in the width direction of the tread surface with a vertex  
in the depth direction positions, vary in the predetermined  
cycle along the circumferential direction.

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2. The pneumatic tire of claim 1 characterized in that when a  
maximum groove cross-sectional area  $S$  is defined as an area  
of a rectangle formed by each of the edges of the land portions

on the side of the circumferential groove and by points where the perpendicular lines, which are perpendicular or approximately perpendicular to the tread surface and which pass through the edges, intersect perpendicularly with a line which is parallel to the tread surface and tangent to the groove deepest portion, an effective groove cross-sectional area  $S'$  corresponding to a portion forming the circumferential groove along the entire circumferential direction satisfies  $S' \geq 0.45S$  in the maximum groove cross-sectional area  $S$ .